

immediately after the foregoing of the miraculous answer to prayer for the stay of the grasshopper plague in Minnesota in 1877.

Great as is the temptation to linger in the early part of the book, we must not fail to spend a word or two on the later chapters, especially Chapter X., which treats of the milling of wheat. It is the most fascinating chapter in this wholly fascinating book. An interesting note for ourselves is, that the earliest mill operators were women—we appear to have monopolized the industry for some four thousand years; then we find slaves of a baser sort and criminals put to the grinding. Later, in the early Christian era, we seem to be doing the family grinding by means of the quern. Mr. Edgar quotes in this connection Wyckliffe's translation of our Lord's prophecy, "Tweine wymmen schulen ben gryndyng in o quern, oon schal be taken and the tother lefte."

There are some pages on the feudal struggle in the history of milling, when king, priest, and squire insisted, by right of might, on the monopoly of the milling industry; but the chapter is far too short; it hardly more than hints at what the author knows of "Soke" or "Soc," as this feudal monopoly was called. That is the fault of the book. Mr. Edgar is in love with his subject, knows it by heart, finds beauties in it that the more indifferent observer would pass by without dreaming that they existed; he could go on, we feel sure, giving us volumes for chapters of the most thrilling history, the most heart-breaking tragedy, as the St. Croix story attests, for one instance; but he is dogged on by a sense of duty, or so it would seem, to give us dates, statistics, awful totals of dollars and bushels. But many readers may find in these, to us vast and vague data, the interest of the book. "This story of a grain of wheat tells the story of man's long-continued struggle for plenty; the response of nature to her children asking for food; the emergence of mankind from savagery, when, regardless of anything save the pangs of hunger, the first miller plucked the berry from the stalk and, using his teeth for millstones, ground grist for a customer who would not be denied—his stomach."

THE SERVANT PROBLEM. Miss Jane Addams in *Good Housekeeping*.

In an article entitled "The Servant Problem," which appeared in the September number of *Good Housekeeping*, Miss Jane Addams lays serious charges against the housekeepers of America. "Why," she asks, "with the increasing number of American housekeepers who are college graduates, and with advantages undreamed of by their grandmothers,—courses in science, economics, and so forth,—is there so little apparent improvement in the administration of the household?" Miss Addams herself answers the question and suggests the means by which to correct the unharmoniousness which makes housework the bugbear of the present time.

American housekeepers, or, as they love to consider themselves, homekeepers, are too conservative in keeping to old traditions and in refusing to take up and apply the inventions of science meant to do for them those things they really want done; they are too timid about trying new things; they are selfish in requiring their families to battle along with a poor and hampering administration because they lack the courage to throw off the outgrown domestic machinery and venture forth as pioneers of better things. Miss Addams warns us that the world will not stand still for our bidding, and that the needed changes are bound to come in spite of all opposition, and she suggests the necessity of our recognizing and coöperating with the advancing change in conditions. She advises

a movement towards collective housekeeping—a certain number of residents in one locality agree as to menus, and by liberal patronage of foods cooked outside the home make the work of serving the family with good, wholesome, and varied diet the simplest matter in the world. She gives an instance of where this plan was actually tried in a Western town, and, despite the fact of its working with, apparently, the best of success, abandoned by the housekeeping experimenters.

What she says to housekeepers Miss Addams might easily apply to us all—I mean women in general and particularly nurses. Her little paper is one we all need to read heedfully and to make copious notes from.

HOW TO MAKE MONEY. A reprint from *Everybody's Magazine*.

This little book with such an alluring title is edited by Katherine Birdsall. Probably ninety-nine out of every hundred people who pick it up will drop it in disappointment, but to the hundredth it may be the inspiration needed to save in a desperate situation. It contains eighty suggestions for women who, having no training for any kind of remunerative employment, find it necessary to make an effort to turn their hands to some useful and advantageous work. It is in no way intended for the "business woman,"—as the preface warns the reader,—its aim is to help the unclassified or unskilled woman to the quickest and most practical way of utilizing whatever talent she may possess. The editor's "foreword" is a very stimulating and timely word for us all, and the book itself is like a good cook-book, a handy little volume to keep on one's bookshelf for reference in an emergency.



FARRAND Training-School for Nurses publishes the following list of books of reference in the nurses' library:

- Anatomy*.—Gray, Walker, Nancrede, Morris.
- Physiology*.—Foster, Hutchinson, Smith, Dalton.
- Hygiene*.—Parkes, Mitchell, Blaikie, Wilson, Keen, Edwards.
- Materia Medica*.—Potter, United States Dispensatory, Groff.
- Bacteriology*.—Vaughan-Novy, Prudden.
- Practice of Medicine*.—Osler, Hughes, Loomis, Da Costa, Shurly, Flint.
- Surgery*.—Morris, McMurtry, Bryant, American Text-Book of Surgery, Erichsen, Gross, Whiting, Wharton.
- Gynecology*.—Reed, Skene, Emmett, Savage.
- Obstetrics*.—Jewett, Davis, Lusk, Manton, Parvin.
- Children*.—Emmet Holt, Starr, Oppenheim, Griffith, Keating, Douglass, Routh, Jacobi.
- Nervous Diseases*.—Burr, Chapin, Mills.
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- Nursing*.—Nightingale, Weeks, Stoney, Fullerton, Voswinkle, Wilson.
- Dietetics*.—Boland, Pavy, Bruen.
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- Miscellaneous*.—Bandaging, Leonard; First Aid to the Injured; Examination of Urine, Hoffman; Tyson.